LEGISLATIVE SECTION 2

CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRY
Betty Gastelua

101. As we entered the next phase of our growth, the Camping and Retreat Ministry continues to approach their mission with a new and energized outlook. 2006 brought excitement, hope, accomplishments and challenges, which were met enthusiastically by the camp directors and the camps governing board.

102. God has truly placed the right people, in the right place, at the right time, and it is clear that the Camping and Retreat Ministry is part of God’s plan for ministry and evangelism. Our camps serve as one of the largest mission projects of the NYAC by keeping youth and adults connected to the church.

103. The stability and dedication of the full time staff at Quinipet and Epworth are developing a strong organized and accountable system of managing these properties and programs. The new Governing Board is concentrating on the large picture and working to support the work at these camps.

104. New records were set during the 2006 camping season. Close to 10,000 people were served at our three camps and 35% of them were Methodist groups. New records of day-campers and consistent overnight camp numbers pushed the programs to new heights.

105. Total programmatic revenues for 2006 were $1.13 million versus approximately $930,000 in 2005, which is an increase of almost $200,000. The factors contributing to this 21.5% increase were primarily due to increased bookings for the retreat season, which were a direct result of the renovations to Epworth’s campus and the school group coordinator hired at Quinipet.

106. Several capital improvements were made by each of the camps, Epworth: $92,000, Kingswood: $56,000 and Quinipet: $223,000, totaling $371,000. These expenses were $259,000 more than the net income for the year. A combination of Session’s Woods funds, savings, and loans covered the cost of most of these projects. At year-end, approximately $77,000 was not reimbursed to the Conference for payroll expenditures. This unpaid obligation was directly caused by the expenses for the necessary capital improvements.

107. On July 6, 2006, the Camps Governing Board decided to contract with JHM Associates to perform a feasibility study to determine if a capital funds campaign would be successful.

108. It was determined that the funds needed for capital improvements and a small endowment fund equal $4,445,300. By raising these funds over the next few years, critical infrastructure issues will be addressed and necessary
facility enhancements will be provided at each of the three camps: Epworth: $1,360,000, Kingswood: $510,300, Quinipet: $2,325,000, and Endowment: $250,000.

109. On March 7, 2007, the decision was made to launch a capital funds campaign under the direction of JHM Associates, who will provide consulting services and assist the governing board with the capital fund campaign management.

110. **Major achievements at Epworth in 2006**: Epworth has made some incredible strides. More groups, more interest and more awareness has gotten Epworth on stable footings. The efforts of the gifted and energetic Ciancis have put Epworth into a position to be sustainable. Faith is of utmost importance as we move forward at Epworth. This past 2006 season, Epworth increased income by over $100,000 from $160,000 to $270,000.

111. Fifty years of corrosion in the water system has been stopped with the installation of a new camp-wide water softening system. The leaks in the pool were repaired by breaking up the concrete and replacing all 9-skimmer boxes. Staff Lodge (to be renamed Sessions Lodge) was repaired and remodeled to be completely accessible with five adult retreat bedrooms and a lovely living room centered around the large fireplace. Epworth benefited from volunteer work groups who built a new boathouse, renovated the outdoor chapel, painted the pool house, and painted and screened the Woodbine cabins.

112. Over 2,100 people enjoyed the beauty of river and tree, sun and field for a retreat at Epworth this year. The Permaculture Gathering was held with numerous workshops, good food and fellowship. A food forest and vermiculture pit was also constructed. An estimated 1,200 attended the annual Family Farm Festival celebrating local growers. Day camp ran for eight weeks with an average of 48 campers per week. Confirmation Kick-off was a huge success with every bed in a heated building filled.

113. **Major achievements at Quinipet in 2006**: Greg Nissen, Director, and Dennis Subbiondo, Facilities Manager, are starting their fifth year of service together. Greg and Dennis make a great leadership team working together to plan and implement the current and future development of Quinipet. With the help of the awesome summer staff, part-time cleaning staff, intern office manager, facilities assistant, and school group adventure coordinator, this team is unstoppable.

114. Plans for the Welcome Center are well underway! This new expansion will be attached to the dining hall and will create a wonderful hub for the camp. The Welcome Center will also have a new infirmary, two conference rooms, a small prayer chapel, accessible bathrooms and a great view of the Peconic Bay. Funding is needed to proceed with this necessary construction, which will allow for continued growth and expansion to a four-season operation.
115. The spring of 2006 surprised Quinipet, when Suffolk County health code required a restaurant permit to operate the dining hall as a 100-person restaurant. Thus requiring capital improvement costs of over $60,000, which caused the capital overrun in the budget. The North and McConnell Buildings were refurbished with heat and air-conditioning, completely insulated, and painted. New furnaces were installed in the Willard II and Jesse Lee and air conditioning was installed in Jesse Lee. With the help of volunteer groups and individuals, doors and windows are being replaced in many of the buildings. Along with the major long-term projects, there are countless smaller projects happening every day, which make a big difference to our guests.

116. Summer overnight camp figures have remained consistent for three years with 500 campers. The day camp had tremendous growth surpassing last year’s participants by 20%. The community sailing program also grew by 50% and the income generated by these two local programs help to keep the overnight rates low. New staff was hired to promote and run school programs, which provided an infusion of new groups. The number of school groups grew to about 20 and the addition of our low ropes course continues to attract more and more groups. Quinipet’s weekend schedule was nearly full to capacity, which contributed to the $120,000 increase in revenue.

117. Major achievements at Kingswood in 2006: It was another busy year! Kingwood’s mission is to provide a quiet, natural setting in which the development of positive, cooperative experiences are encouraged. Kingswood was able to meet their mission, balance their budget and make many structural improvements.

118. 2006 was a year of much transition for Kingswood leadership. As a volunteer run organization they were fortunate to have Dave Taylor as Site Director/ Site Committee Leader for 25+ years. When he stepped down, four people stepped forward to divide the workload, Julie Wityk, Cheryl Winship, Byron Mathis, and Kevin Cox, along with the veteran volunteers who continue to work hard to do whatever needs to get done. The leaders and the site committee are adjusting to the idea that the need to hire staff to run the camp appears to be eminent. This change will not be easy and will take time to plan and implement.

119. Kingswood started the 2006 camping season by enduring a flood that devastated local communities and destroyed the roads leading into Kingswood. Despite receiving 14 inches of rain in two days, with six inches of it falling in four hours, the Kingswood site sustained very little permanent damage. Campers and staff were stranded at the site for three days and had very limited access for an additional two days. The road that connects Kingswood and the nearest town, Hancock, was completely washed out in several places, which made travel difficult throughout the summer.
120. Despite this interruption, Kingswood was able to continue with their summer as planned. Woodsmoke Camp reached its highest participation ever with 67 campers. Under the direction of Kevin Cox, Woodstock Camp had improved programming, many new counselors and a new program director. Kingswood also had two new Program Directors for the 2006 summer season. Both of them brought new ideas, energy and enthusiasm to the overall Kingswood experience and plan to return for the 2007 season.

121. In late winter, it was discovered that the barn was leaning to one side and needed to be temporarily supported while a renovation committee explores the situation. Kingswood started the 2006 season with a great new addition of a staff cabin, which was designed and constructed by volunteers. In addition, the plan to upgrade the campsites is well underway! Over the last year new beds were built for all of the tents, metal roofs were installed on all of the kitchen areas, half of the tents have been replaced, better drainage and gravel have been installed in many of the sites and work continues on mattresses for the beds and parking at each site.

122. Philippians 4:13 states, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” The Camping and Retreat Ministries is trusting in our Lord and Savior to give us the strength and wisdom to move forward to ensure that the future will hold a strong, vital ministry at each of the three camps.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES VISION TABLE OF THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE
Rev. Lucy E. Jones, Chair

101. “The New York Annual Conference, through the grace of God, embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.”

102. The Connectional Ministries Vision Table (CMVT) of the New York Annual Conference had a very fruitful year. The Conference Vision Statement, adopted at the 2006 session of the Annual Conference, has been our focus for moving forward. The Bishop set into motion the creation of a conference-wide Bible Study based on the vision statement. Members of the CMVT, along with many others, helped to shape that document and the Connectional Ministries (CM) office spearheaded that production and its distribution.

103. We have been thinking about and working on the “shape” of the Table and the process of involvement and leadership for the last year. In March, the executive committee agreed to adopt a leadership team model of three persons: Chairperson, Immediate Past Chairperson (IPC), and Incoming Chairperson (IC). In May, Mrs. Renata Smith, lay member from St. Luke’s in New Rochelle, was asked to become the Incoming Chairperson, which she
prayerfully agreed to do. In the January plenary, the body had a lengthy discussion about the three-leader model, and in the end, decided that it was the best way to proceed. I am so pleased to have Renata by my side and feel confident that she will be a gifted, caring and fruitful leader as I step down from the Chair position in June. I will remain on the team as the IPC, and a new team member will join us as the new IC. The same model will be used for the Budget Chair position.

104. Another significant change to our functioning was the decision to meet as a plenary each September. Especially as new members come onto the Table after the Conference session, we felt it prudent to come together to introduce ourselves and to focus on our common tasks.

105. Through all our work, Bishop Park has inspired us as leaders and decision-makers in the conference, and has made use of the talents that are available through the Table. His leadership and the involvement of the whole Cabinet has made a great difference in the empowerment for the Table to do good work in and for this beloved community we call the New York Annual Conference.

106. We continue to use the Vision Statement as a focus for our efforts. The task before us now is to apply it throughout our Conference, so that our mission and ministries are enlivened more than ever. We continue to unpack what it means and how we are living it out in our own contexts, in our districts, in our committees and boards, in our churches, and in our lives.

107. Many of our members took advantage of the opportunity to attend the leadership development program of the Jurisdiction, “The Great Leadership Event,” held in October in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Also, the leadership development through Natural Church Development has been a powerful initiative this year (see Ann Pearson’s report for more on NCD progress).

108. It has been a wonderful year for me and for the Table, and made so by being able to work with talented and committed people, the CM staff, colleagues, Cabinet, lay and clergy alike. We have a good time (mostly) and our connection to each other is deepened (always). I have been privileged and honored to serve God and to serve my neighbors in this way for the past five years.

109. Thanks especially to Ann Pearson for her untiring work as the Director of Connectional Ministries; and to Shelley Mitchell, whose minutes and notices have made all the difference in tracking and communicating our work. I’m also very grateful to Betsy Ott, who has so ably directed the budget development for the last five years, and who is turning that work over to Ken Mosig this year.

110. Next year, we will have an overnight retreat, for the first time in four years.
The time is right to renew our commitment to the bond we have through our connection. It is scheduled for January 11-12, 2008, at the Stony Point Retreat Center in Stony Point, New York. The next plenary is set for September 18, 2007, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Conference Center. I see a bright future for our conference, with excellent leadership and partnership for ministries through the CMVT.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES - Part 2
(Ann A. Pearson – Director of Connectional Ministries)

101. The 2005 Annual Conference introduced a new Quadrennial Theme, “For Such a Time as This.” The secondary theme for 2006 was “We are the Church Together.” New secondary themes will provide a particular focus for each of the remaining three years. For 2007, the secondary theme is “Together We Make a Difference.”

102. A quadrennial logo was designed by Todd Pick and introduced at the 2005 Annual Conference. Additional panels were added to the logo design to represent the Conference theme for 2006.

103. There was a strong emphasis on music in the programming for 2006, including a conference choir of 200 voices. Five choirs were invited to perform for ordination. A variety of music groups preformed throughout demonstrating the amazing diversity of the New York Annual Conference.

104. 1,500 visitors accepted Bishop Park’s invitation to attend Saturday at Annual Conference. They experienced a box lunch, a “Partners in Mission” Celebration and Ordination. Bishop Park closed conference with the Hallelujah Chorus.

105. The 2006 Annual Conference voted a new Vision Statement. The Conference Vision Table worked through a consultant, Wally Fletcher of the Dialogue Center, to hold listening posts throughout the year. Six hundred individuals participated in scripture driven dialogue looking toward a vision statement that brings focus to our ministry and identity as the New York Annual Conference. A special thanks to Rev. Lucy Jones, chair of the CMVT, for her dedication to this process. The work and resources of the Conference Vision Table will be measured by the Vision Statement as we move forward. District councils and local churches are encouraged toward accountability of mission and ministry.

106. In the Fall of 2006, a Bible Study was written to accompany the Vision Statement as we live into the four-point ministry focus. Many collaborated on the study, which was mailed to each local church in December. It is the hope of Bishop Park that every local church will work through the material by annual conference 2007.
107. Special thanks to our Annual Conference Techno team under the leadership of Rev. Charles Van Houten for their attention to detail in video preparation for and during conference.

108. The centerpiece of our table display was a Health Fair created and staffed by the Conference Parish Nurse Committee. Interactive displays brought attention to health issues and accessibility issues in the local church. Special thanks to Rev. Bert Woodcock and his Parish Nurse Team!

109. Connectional Ministries sent a delegation of 88 leaders to “The Great Event”, held in Valley Forge, PA, in October, 2006. NYAC leaders had major roles in the development of this very successful Jurisdictional Event. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn, share and network. Special thanks to Betsy Ingram for representing NYAC in the planning of the Great Event. Thanks to Shelley Mitchell for logo design and for her work to assemble the worship and workshop book.

110. In April, the Cabinet and others from each district experienced an orientation to Natural Church Development. Bishop Park brought this process to our annual conference through his introduction at the Council of Bishops. Thirty annual conferences around the country are already involved, some of them as long as five years. A small group from the April gathering experienced coach training as well. A decision was made to offer orientations conference-wide and opportunities to become trained as coaches. By December, 350 people representing 120 churches had attended orientations, and 75 laity and clergy were trained as coaches. Two more orientations are planned by Annual Conference 2007. Response to the NCD presentation and interest in proceeding to enroll in the process is encouraging. Sign–up and coach assignments, support and follow-up are being managed by Rev. Ann Pearson in the Office of Connectional Ministry. The web site for the Natural Church Development is www.ncd-international.org.

111. Rev. Don Collier continues as the editor of the conference newspaper, The Vision. In addition, he works with the Igniting Ministry materials and workshops. Don serves as the chair of the Communications Committee and has spearheaded the redesign of a new conference website. Don also serves on the General Church Committee for One Great Hour of Sharing.

112. The new conference website was launched this year, www.nyac.com. It is hoped that once the website is fully operational, our district websites will be coordinated with the NYAC site. Current events of the church are featured on the home page with user-friendly tabs for information sharing.

111. Neal Bowes continues to consult in the area of Youth Ministries. This year, Neal designed and led the program associated with the Bishop’s Confirmation Rally at Valhalla UMC and led a Confirmation Kickoff at Camp Epworth in the Fall of 2006. Neal writes a column for The Vision called From the Youth
Guy! Youth Leader Training Seminars are being held throughout the Annual Conference, at the invitation of districts, clusters, and local churches. Attendance at these workshops has been strong, clearly indicating a need for conference level youth emphasis. Neal is currently working on a project called “The Amazing Bible Race,” to be published by the United Methodist Publishing House in the Spring of 2007. In addition, Neal writes an online weekly devotional for Youth at www.Dailydevos.org.

112. Rev. Jim Stinson continues to serve as consultant for Older Adult Ministries. He has led district, cluster, and local church seminars and is currently writing a very popular column for Older Adult Ministries in The Vision.

113. Lorrie Landry continues in her role as consultant in the area of Children’s Ministries. She continues to work with local churches upon request and has presented cluster and district workshops. Safe Sanctuaries is an important component of the training for Children’s Ministries. Conference-wide Safe Sanctuary training is on schedule for 2007.

114. The Email Newsletter from the Learning Center has become a major tool for information sharing from The Office of Connectional Ministries. The online newsletter reminds local congregations of opportunities and share interesting and effective links to ministry ideas. The listserv reaches more than 3100 email addresses. Special thanks to Shelley Mitchell for her work to create the database and her creative editing.

115. Connectional Ministries continues oversight of the Camping and Retreat Ministries of the New York Annual Conference. Their report will show financial stability, aggressive program development and site improvements reflecting a preferred future. A search was conducted for a Camps Capital Fund Raiser in the Fall. Results of a feasibility study will be prepared for early 2007.

116. The Budget Committee of Conference Vision Table continues to adjust its budget to reflect the encouragement of new initiative ministries while supporting active committees.

117. Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie continues to bring energy and passion in Mission and Outreach to the Office of Connectional Ministries. This year’s Spring floods in the western part of New York State brought an immediate and aggressive response of our Disaster Response Team. Walton UMC under the leadership of Rev. Mark Del Giudice, became the base camp for the work on 90 homes in the area. This disaster was in part a measure of how the hard work of the Disaster Relief Plan of action works successfully and the remarkable work of UMCOR. Many hands did lots of work!! The work continues into the second year of Volunteers traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi through Disaster Response. This ongoing plan has been a model for other conferences.
118. Gene Ott, a student from Drew, has been interning with the Mission Office this year. It is hoped that an intern relationship with Drew Seminary will be ongoing. Barbara Vaccaro has joined us part-time in the area of Disaster Relief and VIM team management. She can be reached at Disaster@nyac.com. Our foreign mission program continues to grow in strength and numbers. New missions sites are in development. Read Joseph’s journal report for all the new details. Are you wearing the mission hat?

119. The Learning Center has been the host to local congregations for event/worship planning, has increased its lending of resources “many fold” over the year and held year-round events including workshops, teacher training, finance training, Vacation Bible School. The Center has been the host for councils and committees of the conference with a capacity of 50 people. We want to thank Christ, UMC, New Rochelle for accommodating Connectional Ministries events with larger audiences.

120. Connectional Ministries could not function with my Administrative Assistant, Shelley Mitchell. She is the “how to,” “where is it,” database expert! AND artist in residence! Did you know that Shelley designs and created the crosses we use on the annual conference altars? Shelley works continually to provide altars for the Learning Center. Shelley – thank you!

121. Annual Conference 2007 will be driven by General Church issues, including the selection of delegates to both General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference. In addition, Bishop Park has requested that this year, 2007 be celebrated with an invitation for youth to attend. On Saturday, an extensive program will be planned to welcome youth both at an outside tent location and in the arena onstage. The Table Display Centerpiece will model interactive youth programming for local church ministry.

122. As Director of Connectional Ministries, it is my role to be a “listener” around the Conference, to respond to the educational needs raised by committees, boards, the Cabinet and to be ever aware of the sparks of a new idea that may be developed into amazing ministry. It is my role as DCM to work with the vision of our Bishop Park and the Conference Vision Statement, toward a preferred future of ministry. Moving into 2007, in addition to me portfolio, I will be visiting local churches as they begin the Natural Church Development process. Out in the Connection, I became the President of the Jurisdictional Director of Connectional Ministries (2006 – 2008) as well as serve on the Jurisdictional Vision Table.

123. I celebrate what God is doing through The United Methodist Church and the pockets of superb ministry that I encounter. I see evidence of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” around the conference – “We are the people of The United Methodist Church.”
CATSKILL HUDSON DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES
Reverend Sara Thompson Tweedy and Alice LaClair, Co-Chairpersons

101. The District Council on Ministries is now chaired by two new persons, Alice LaClair and Reverend Sara Thompson Tweedy. Although there is a change in leadership, several faithful people continue to serve on the District Council with enthusiasm, wisdom and grace. The co-chairs are grateful for their continued service. The Members of the Council are as follows: Diane Meredith, Rev. Dr. Duane Buddle; Rev. Joyce Wilkerson; Pastor Steve Knutsen; Donna Jolly; Cindy Davis; Rev. Robert Johnson; Rev. David Mantz; S. Lee Quimby; Pastor Bridgette LeConey; Pastor Gail Erdie; Rev. Dr. Mark Chatterton; and Rev. Vicky Annin.

102. On March 25, 2006, The District Council on Ministries hosted District Training Day at the Federated Church of Kerhonkson. 118 people from around the Catskill Hudson District attended the event. Workshops were held on a variety of spiritual topics including: Prayer, Youth and Children’s Ministry, the responsibilities of the Church Treasurer, and Lay Speaking. A total of nine workshops were offered.

103. District Conference was held in May, 2006. There are always a few business items to attend to at District Conference, but the main focus was the opportunity for churches to come together for worship and fellowship. Reverend Allan Pinckney preached at the event. We also had various choirs perform.

104. The District Council scheduled a daylong retreat at Camp Epworth on November 4, 2006. Two especially important agenda items were planning District Workshop Day and District Conference Day. We also invited Karen and Terry Cianci to be with us for a portion of the day to offer us insights as to how the District Council and our churches can better utilize Camp Epworth's facilities.

105. We entered into 2007 with great hope for continuing the tradition of providing our churches with relevant, engaging, and spiritual opportunities to encourage personal and communal growth.

106. And, alas, we say good-bye to Mark and Dru Chatterton. Their insight, expertise, and humor have always been a welcome part of any District Council event. They will be missed. But in every chapter that closes, a new one begins. We look forward to working with Rev. Jim Moore and learning new directions in which we can carry our mission for the betterment of our churches, district, and conference.
CONNECTICUT DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES
Rev. Terry Wayne Pfeiffer, Chair

101. Our District Council on Ministries continues to focus on training, supporting, and enriching our local churches laity and clergy. Our other focus is on mission/outreach and service of humans in need. We have continued to provide a variety of quality resourcing or continuing education workshops. We have attempted to train, coach, and equip church leaders so they can effectively carry out their ministries of care, justice, and making disciples for Christ.

102. Our spring District Conference again will focus on our churches sharing and celebrating their outreach, mission, and social justice ministries. We continue our support of Volunteers in Mission and our financial and spiritual support to areas including Haiti, Bolivia, and the Gulf Coast, among others.

103. Our quality Lay Speaker Program leaders and faculty train active and capable lay speakers to lead worship and provide spiritual leadership in a variety of ways. We actively interpret, promote and support United Methodist priorities of our connectional ministries at the General level and Annual Conference level.

104. I appreciate and thank the cooperative, dedicated and caring members of our CT DCOM, particularly Vice Chair Laura Perregaux. I also thank Bishop Jeremiah Park and our CT District Superintendent Rev. George Engelhardt for their vital spiritual and programmatic leadership, prayers, and support.

LONG ISLAND EAST DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES
Rev. Albert Hahn

101. After an informal survey of pastors and lay leaders in the district, DCOM identified two focus areas for 2006-2007: Leadership Development and Local Church Membership Growth.

102. For Leadership Development, we focused on 1) Lay Speakers School, 2) Leader to Leader Training Event and 3) Formation of Clergy Clusters.

103. With the leadership of Peter O’Neil, we are offering Lay Speakers School in three different locations. As a result, registration has increased. In addition, we are expanding ministry opportunities for the lay speakers by connecting with the nursing homes and other institutions where religious service is desired.

104. Leader to Leaders Training Event attracted over 200 leaders on January 27, 2007. Rev. Tammie Rae Keeler, as the coordinator of the event organized worship and eight workshops, providing a good mixture of inspiration and
practical trainings for the leaders of local churches. In addition, 17 leaders, clergy and lay, attended the Leadership Summit sponsored by Willow Creek Association in August.

105. Formation of the clergy clusters remains the challenge for the future. By now, we have a good assessment of the current reality of existing clusters. With the guidance of the District Superintendent, we will seek to fine-tune the vision of clergy clusters and implement them in the coming year.

106. For local church membership growth, we focused on 1) Igniting Ministry Campaign, 2) Website Development, 3) Welcome Ministry Workshop and 4) Natural Church Development

107. Gia Hall, vice-chairperson of the DCOM, provided leadership in Igniting Ministry Campaign. As a result of her hard work and local churches’ willingness to contribute financially, we were able to air 60 spots of Igniting Ministry TV commercials on Long Island channels prior to Easter.

108. With the Igniting Ministry Campaign, developing attractive website became our priority. Jeff James spearheaded in redesigning our District website and encouraging local churches to develop their own websites. Even though we still have local churches without websites, we hope to have all our local churches to have a functioning websites in near future. Rev. Rhonda Taylor led the workshop to train welcome ministry teams in local churches on March 3, 2007.

109. Working with CMVT, we are continuing to add to the list of coaches of Natural Church Development. A few churches have begun the process of the NCD. As the pioneer churches share the benefit of the process, more churches will enter into the process with the trained coaches.

110. In addition to our priority areas, we have been continuing with Disaster Preparedness Training, Stewardship Seminars, UMW, UMM, Youth retreats. Many from our district also participated in VIM programs to Biloxi and oversea missions. In the coming year, we are planning to partner with Habitat for Humanity to build at least one affordable house a year in Long Island.

LONG ISLAND WEST DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES
Shirley T. Pettiford, DCOM Chairperson

101. In times like these, there is much for which the Long Island West District is thankful. We are thankful to God for His guidance, thankful to the members of the council for their support, thankful to the congregations for their enthusiastic response to our training events, and thankful to our District Superintendent, Rev. Gunshik Shim for his leadership and spiritual support.
102. On a beautiful spring day in May, we filled the sanctuary of Floral Park UMC to attend a combined Training and Annual Meeting event. We listened in rapt attention to Rev. Dr. Clyde Anderson, the Executive Director of The United Methodist City Society, as he presented the challenges of doing mission in an urban society. The Lay Speaking School awarded Lay Speaking Certificates to 87 persons in the categories of: Youth, Beginners, Advance I and Advance II. The Lay Leadership committee skillfully organized the activities of the day so that we ended the day feeling motivated and spiritually fulfilled.

103. The third Annual District Wide Youth Event was held in June at Bushwick Parish UMC. The theme was: Youth United In Christ Will Not Be Divided. A Sports Ministry will be organized in the Spring to involve youth in the Church and the community.

104. Members of the District Council have participated in training for Conflict Transformation. This training will be shared with our Churches in the Spring.

105. The Brooklyn Central and The Southeast Queens Cluster Churches annually observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. Holy week services are held culminating in Good Friday services, where the Seven Last Words of Christ are remembered.

106. Our year ended in a joyful Advent celebration. Our spirits were lifted by the music of the Bushwick Parish choir. We left knowing that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

NEW YORK/CONNECTICUT DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES
Rev. Evelyn R. McDonald, Chair; Donna Jolly and Rev. Matt Curry, Area Vice-Chairs

What a wonderful year as this new District became clearer about who we are and what God is calling us to do. Our District clusters are underway and they are: Orange – Mary Howell; Dutchess – Tony Beck; Putnam/Westchester – Karen Burger & Matt Curry; Fairfield – Edwin Jones. Another new beginning is web site development by Rev. John Capen, which will assist the DCOM and others in connecting to active ministries and the work of this Council.

In January and February we sponsored District Leadership Development workshops, which took place on three separate dates, at three separate locations. They were very successful with good attendance and great workshop leaders.

As a District, we are blessed with two Lay Speaking/Ministry Schools, which occur on the east and west sides. They offer us two separate times to become Basic or Certified and two models for the training. The main differences are in the Basic training for by the time someone is certified he/she has received the same education.
We continue to encourage pastors and laity to attend the Natural Church Development training and to find creative ways to be in partnership in all aspects of ministry.

At the time of writing this report we are planning our District Conference to be April 29, 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at Shrub Oak UMC and a District Missions Outreach day to be held on May 19, 9 a.m. until noon at Fishkill UMC. This is an opportunity to celebrate and explore our call to be in mission to the world.

Throughout the year we have worked to bring the Conference vision alive at the District level and fulfill our mission statement: “The mission of the New York/Connecticut District is to support and encourage the people of our churches in making disciples of Jesus Christ, and renewing local and global communities by sharing the spirit of hope and love of God with ALL people through our actions and words.”

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY
(Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling, Chairperson; New York Education Society, Andrew Peck-McClain, President)

101. This year has been one of transitions for many of the ecumenical Protestant campus ministries that our annual conference supports through the Commission on Higher Education & Campus Ministry (CHECM). Financial support of campus ministries in the Northeast depends on several denominations working together, so when one denomination cuts back or stops all financial support, making up that difference is extremely difficult, if not impossible. This leaves campus ministries in a very precarious position in our Annual Conference, because the NYAC depends on the ecumenical community to make our support of campus ministries stable: together we stand, divided we fall is the principle at work.

102. We learned in the fall 2006 that the Connecticut Commission on United Ministries in Higher Education (CCUMHE) would no longer be functioning as the administrative organization overseeing campus ministries in western Connecticut. This change was initiated by the withdrawal of support from the United Church of Christ in Connecticut. The five campus ministries (Southern CT, Western CT, Greater Hartford, New Britain, Bridgeport) that were funded through CCUMHE were instructed to apply directly to different denominations, including our Commission, for funding support in 2007. CHECM invited these campus ministries to submit budget request forms for our review in 2007. In addition, we asked our Connecticut District Superintendents to recommend any churches that were involved with campus ministries. Two churches were named: United Church of Westville, and First & Summerfield UMC. Both churches have campus ministry outreach to Yale and Southern CT students. CHECM will review budget requests.
from all of these campus ministries (ecumenical and United Methodist) in early 2007 and decide what support we can offer to campus ministries in western Connecticut for the fall of 2007.

103. Another transition is in process at SUNY-New Paltz Student Christian Center, where Lutheran pastor, Rev. Paul Walley, serves. Episcopalian support of this ecumenical Protestant ministry planned to be withdrawn starting in 2007. The New Paltz campus ministry’s board is seeking creative ways to continue ecumenical Protestant ministry without funding from the Episcopalian Church. The Episcopalians have decided to initiate their own campus ministry, with an appointed priest serving the SUNY-New Paltz community. Non-Episcopalians will be welcomed to participate, especially if no other Protestant option is available beginning in the fall of 2007. CHECM looks forward to hearing what the SUNY-New Paltz campus ministry board will decide for its future.

104. The board of Long Island United Campus Ministries (LIUCM), an umbrella organization for campus ministries at Long Island colleges and universities, has decided to do some very creative re-working of how their organization functions. Their process for revitalization was just getting started in the fall of 2006. Already there is good energy and excitement for improving the efficiency of the LIUCM Board, and its work with the local campus ministry boards that it oversees. Rev. Kazy Hinds is the new Executive Director of LIUCM. We will learn in 2007 what shape their restructuring will take and look forward to continued success with campus ministries on Long Island. There are no substantive changes in effect at Westside Campus Ministry (Church of St Paul & St Andrew, Manhattan), or at SUNY-Delhi, the other two campus ministries CHECM has supported for a number of years.

105. The New York Education Society administers our Annual Conference scholarships to support students from our Annual Conference who may not be eligible for aid from the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry, since those scholarships are geared towards United Methodist-related colleges and universities. This committee is chaired by Andrew Peck-McClain. Please remember that you can find information about loans and scholarships at the New York Annual Conference website: www.nyac.com/learningcenter/scholarships. We’re also keeping everyone informed about our work through district mailings, the connectional ministry listserve, and “The Vision” newspaper.

New York Education Society Scholarship recipients in 2006, for the 2006-2007 academic year, were as follows. Our two NYES Fellows this year were Lizbee Collins-Wildman and Joanne Utley in the amount of $1,200 each. Our NYES Scholars were Crystal Rush, Lauren Fleming, Coryne Casey, Carley Thompson, Stacia Robinson and Patrick Foster for $1,000 each. Finally, we awarded five Book Grants in the amount of $500 each to Paulino
Bernabe III, Betty Gannon, Alicia Dellimore, Allison Dellimore and Sheryl Beach.

106. The United Methodist Student Day offering is an essential way to support our Conference Merit Scholarship program. The New York Education Society was able to grant Alicia Thompson-Gee the Conference Merit Award. If your congregation doesn’t usually participate, encourage them to do so. It’s a great way to assist students with the monumental task of paying for their educations. In addition, participating in World Communion Sunday offerings supports the Crusade Scholarship program of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry. We encourage all NYAC churches to support these scholarship offerings to help educate the new generation of United Methodist leaders in our churches and our communities. Thank you for your support.

107. Each year we receive a report from the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry: Office of Loans & Scholarships, detailing scholarship and loan recipients. Here are some statistics for your information: Five (5) NYAC students received low-interest educational loans. Thirty-eight (38) NYAC students (undergraduate and graduate) received scholarships from the General Board, including eight (8) ethnic scholarships; six (6) UM scholarships; three (3) seminary awards; four (4) Brandenburg awards; five (5) UM National scholarships; six (6) Hana Scholarships; one (1) Knowles Special Award; one (1) Merit Award; and four (4) Gift of Hope Scholarships. Our students are enrolled in schools within our Annual Conference (Union Theological, Adelphi, New York Theological, College of Staten Island, and U. of Hartford). Students from across the NYAC, upstate NY to Connecticut to Long Island, received these awards, scholarships, and loans.

108. With all of the transitions in campus ministries, the next few years are going to be busier ones for our Commission. Many thanks to the Commission members who have made themselves available for more meetings, conference calls and email exchanges. There’s more to come, I’m sure.

109. One last note, the nominating committee added someone to our committee that we have no contact information for: If you can provide contact information for Hwi Joon Park from a church in the Long Island West district, it would be greatly appreciated!
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE, NATIONAL PLAN FOR
THE HISPANIC LATINO MINISTRIES OF THE NEW YORK
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The Rev. Carmen Margarita Ortiz, Chair

101. Officers are: Rev. Carmen Margarita Ortiz, President; Rev. Enrique Lebron, Vice President; Rev. Hector Laporta, Secretary and School of Theology. Members are: Rev. Elisa M Vicioso, Rev. Sonia Jermin, Rev. Dr. Allen Pinckney Jr. (Cabinet Representative), Rev. Ann Pearson (Connectional Ministries), Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Rev. Javier Viera, Rev. Alicia Fils-Aimé Wentler (Hispanic Council), Patty Nohara, Maria Maine. Agency Representatives are from GBGM, GBD, GBVCS, GBHEM, UMPH and City Society. These agencies have continuously been a support system for the NYAC and its ministries.

102. It was on February 13, 2006, that I was nominated to be the president of the NYAC Hispanic Latino Implementation Plan. Like most of us, I had no idea what saying “YES!” to what the position meant. Thank God for his guidance and the group of men and women behind me who are helping to resurrect the committee.

103. Not much has been done; however, we have gathered information and history of past activities, which the past committee has been able to provide within the NYAC under past leaders and participants. There is still much more to be done. Thus, the committee has met with the Cabinet, Bishop Park, Rev. Francisco A. Canas, Coordinator of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries, and the Rev. Luis F. Reyes. Rev. Reyes is the consultant assigned to the NYAC implementation plan.

104. Rev. Luis F. Reyes indicated to us, in his visit, that there is a need for the committee to be more inclusive. Rev. Dr. Allen Pinckney, Dean of the Cabinet, recommended that each district send two laypersons from each district. This process has been slow, but we pray that as the committee continues to work toward perfection, those who are needed and would like to serve will be integrated.

105. We have been able to establish goals for the year 2007 and 2008. These goals have been revised, refined, and presented with a budget of $80,000 to Bishop Park and the Cabinet for consideration. On February 19, 2007, I was able to meet with the Rev. Francisco Cana to acquire guidance and advice for the revision of the budget. Rev. Luis F. Cana requested a meeting with the Cabinet and Bishop to instruct and inform of past, present, and future financial information of The National Plan of the NYAC. A letter was written to the Cabinet and Bishop requesting a meeting. The Cabinet and the Bishop Jeremiah Park reviewed the letter and indicated through the Dean of the Cabinet, Dr. Rev. Pinckney that we need to be more specific and
detailed of the items lined in the present budget. On March 19, 2007, the committee will meet at Rev. Lebron’s church in Central Islip and review the budget. The National Plan is a plan for the churches of the NYAC. The plan will assist churches from all over the New York area. The purpose of the plan is to strengthen existing communities, and mobilize, educate, and identify faith communities within the NYAC.

106. Our goals are to continue to aid those who have been under the NYAC National Plan umbrella and aid faith communities that now exist in the Long Island East area. We envision a pilot project emerging from these existing faith communities that can become the model for the NYAC under the Hispanic National Plan. I encourage you to become involved or active through prayer in this important ministry of the NYAC.

107. In closing I would like to say that I am grateful to God, my only reason why I do what I do, the support of our Bishop, the Cabinet, and all of the members of the committee. Without them nothing would have been accomplished. There is so much to do, but I cannot do it alone, I will not do it alone. I need your support. Together we can make a different and become the beloved community that our Bishop, Jeremiah J. Park, envisions.

LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES
Jim Fleegal, Conference Director

101. My thanks to the many unpaid District Directors, their committees, and the hands and feet, arms and legs of the body—the hundreds of students, clergy, and lay ministers who support them.

102. 2006 brought a couple of “firsts” for the NYAC Lay Speaking Ministries:
  ▪ A new web site, www.gbgm-umc.org/nylayspeakersite was designed and posted. This site provides links to basic and advanced lay speaker classes and workshops, annual report forms, sermon helps, resources, and links for ordained ministers.
  ▪ Our first-ever LSM booth at annual conference. The booth presented photographs, pamphlets, and other information about the LSM program.
  ▪ Bishop Park visited our first-annual Lay Speaker Luncheon at Hofstra.
  ▪ Our first LOCAL Lay Speaker Refresher Class—as newly required in the 2004 Book of Discipline was held.
  ▪ Increased the class time of CERTIFIED Lay Speakers, who want to renew/maintain their lay speaker status, to a minimum of 10 hours of “net” classroom instruction—plus outside assignment—for full credit. (Workshops with less than 10 net classroom hours are credited relative to net classroom time; e.g., a five-hour class = ½ credit) as required in the 2004 Book of Discipline was accomplished.
103. Your lay speakers have reported many wonderful ministries and mission work that they have done in the past year. Lay Speaking Ministries (our new name) is not just about being in the pulpit.

104. Now that we have begun to connect lay speakers in our Conference, one of the goals for 2007 is to increase the interaction between districts to share insights and best-practices so that we can provide lay speakers with the best training and support that we can.

105. A key objective this year is to redesign the Lay Speaking Ministries web site to accommodate the lay speakers, seekers, and director’s needs for information, training, and other services. In preparation of this task, I have enrolled in various HTML, Flash, and Dreamweaver Web site and Adobe design classes to help me in this endeavor.

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES
Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator & Conference Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator

101. CONFERENCE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
We have celebrated with success the first anniversary of our disaster response and preparedness ministry in Biloxi. We started the second year of this ministry with the purchase of a pickup truck and a van to facilitate the transportation of construction materials and volunteers. Over 500 volunteers have traveled to Biloxi and volunteered over 125,000 hours of manual labor. We hope that our partnership with Rev. Edward Moses and the churches in Biloxi will continue to bring hope to our brothers and sisters recovering from the onslaught of hurricane Katrina.

102. Disaster Spiritual Care Volunteers
We have added Spiritual Care to our disaster response ministry. Disaster does not destroy only physical structures; it devastates the human spirit and shutters the emotions of victims. Disaster Spiritual Care Volunteers are those trained to provide immediate care when the need arises. The training is provided by Disaster Chaplaincy Services of New York and STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) of New York. In order to qualify for the certification a volunteer must take the following advanced workshops:

a. Pastoral Crisis Intervention workshop (two days) or Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support (two days)

b. Hope beyond Hammering (STAR – five hours)

After a successful completion of the workshop an individual (clergy or laity) is certified as NYAC Disaster Spiritual Care volunteer for three years.
103. Outreach Ministry in the Local Church
Many local churches have benefited from the Go for Mission Gold program. This program provides resources and incentives to local churches. We hope to continue this program for the next 2 years. This is how it works:

You qualify for the 12k Gold if your church:
1. Full payment of connectional apportioned funds.
2. Supported at least one local mission project.
3. Receive Special Sunday offering or similar mission related offerings.

You qualify for the 14k Gold if your church: (after achieving 12k)
1. Fulfilled a covenant relationship obligation
2. Supported at least one Conference Mission Initiative such as Mozambique, Cambodia, Bolivia, etc.)
3. Sent at least one member on a Volunteer In Mission Trip.

You qualify for the 18k Gold if your church: (After achieving 14k)
1. Attended Cooperative School of Christian Mission.
2. Celebrated Mission Sunday with a mission speaker.
3. Take a group on a Mission Study Tour or Volunteer in Mission Trip.

You qualify for the 24k if your church: (After achieving 18k)
1. Offered a new mission experience  Do something new that your congregation has never done before.
2. Support the Conference Disaster Preparedness & Response Team.

104. Mission Interpretation/Missionary Covenant Relations
The New York Annual Conference continues to support and strengthen the relationship with the following mission initiatives:

International
1. Mozambique Sister Conference Initiative.
2. Latin America & Caribbean “Encounter with Christ.” Bolivia and Costa Rica
3. Cambodia Initiative.
5. Partnership with Ghana Churches.

National
1. National Korean-American Ministries (Advance #982587)
2. Alaska Children’s Service (Advance #931435)
3. Henderson Settlement (Advance #773365)
4. Red Bird Mission (Advance #773726)
5. Appalachia Service Project
6. National Hispanic Plan
9. UM Army
New York Conference Ministries
The Anchor house
The United Methodist Center at Far Rockaway
Rural Migrant Ministries
The Children’s Home of the Wyoming Conference
Methodist Homes and Hospitals

GBGM Missionary Support
The following are the missionaries related to the New York Conference:

Jae Hyoung (Jay) Choi Advance # 13973Z Philippines
Eun Ha Choi (Grace) Advance # 13974Z Philippines
Nancy Daleney Advance # 982978 Bronx, NY
Samuel Grono de Oro Advance # 13032Z Dominican Republic
Kalindi Thomas Advance # 13966Z Global
Sun Sook Kim Advance # 10843Z Philippines
Ediberto Lopez-Rodrigues Advance # 012860 Puerto Rico
John Chikwaira Advance # 13955Z Zimbabwe
Beverly Moon Advance # 03147Z Taichung, Taiwan
Joel Medendorp, Helen de Leon Camarce Advance # 13953Z Manila, Philippines
Joseph and Marilyn Chan Advance # Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Rosangela Soares de Oliveira Advance # 14210Z Latin America
John Yambasu Advance # 14940Z Accra, Ghana

MOZAMBIQUE-NEW YORK SISTER CONFERENCES CONNECTION
Deborah Dempster

101. Activities kicked off in April, 2006, with a three-mile walk at Riverside Park in New York City, where Bishop Jeremiah Park joined participants from throughout the conference in raising over $6,000 for our ongoing missions and ministries in Mozambique.

102. A few months later, the Connection was issued a $10,000 grant from the Bishop’s Partners in Mission project to fund a community farm project in Lichinga, located in northern Mozambique where the Connection continues to focus the majority of its work. The project is led by a Mozambican whose education the group supported.

103. During the summer, our eight-member VIM team traveled to Beira, where they continued to build relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ, participated in Sunday worship and small group discussions about the church
and community life with the locals, visited a model elementary school and a university, toured Beira Hospital and attended part of a day of the North Annual Conference held in Chimoio. In addition, they followed up on the Connection-supported multi-year construction project of an Episcopal office and residence and purchased needed supplies.

104. Throughout the year, the Connection financially supported nearly a dozen students attending Africa University, Cambine Bible School, The Catholic University of Cuamba and other institutions of higher learning, as well as students in high school and lower levels. Students were selected by and scholarships prioritized by the Mozambique – North Conference. Building on Bishop Joao Machado’s dream of accrediting Cambine Bible School as a four-year theological university, we continue to support one student, a pastor who has been identified by the bishop as one of three candidates to serve as an university level professor in Cambine.

105. People throughout our conference attended the Connection’s January, 2007, general meeting with guest speaker Bishop Park, who shared his experiences traveling to Mozambique and other countries in Africa a few months earlier.

106. The MOZ/NY Connection has certified lay speakers available to relate sermons about Mozambique experiences, and other speakers on hand to make presentations at your church, district meetings and beyond. Contact the Moz/NY Connection to find out how Mozambique Methodists grew from 30,000 in 1987 to 180,000 in 2002!

107. For more information about our activities, or if you would like to support this ministry, contact MOZ/NY Connection Chairperson Deborah Dempster at beelight@earthlink.net.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES
Rebekah Forni, Chairperson; Natassia Velez, Vice-Chairperson

101. In the past year, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) has been actively solidifying its presence in the New York Annual Conference. Two years ago, the Council was resurrected from non-existence. We have been working toward meeting the goals outlined for CCYM by the 2004 Book of Discipline. They are:

- To initiate and support plans, activities, and projects that are of particular interest to youth.
- To be an advocate for the free expression of the convictions of youth on issues vital to them.
- To support and facilitate, where deemed needed, the formation of youth caucuses.
• To recommend to the annual conference committee on nominations qualified youth for membership on boards and agencies.
• To elect and certify annual conference representatives to the jurisdictional youth ministry organization convocations.
• To receive and set the policy and criteria for its portion of the Youth Service Fund [70% of all YSF money raised within the annual conference]
• To establish the policy for Youth Service Fund (YSF) education and be responsible for its promotion throughout the annual conference, in cooperation with the Division on Ministries with Youth People of the General Board of Discipleship.

102. We are participating in Youth 2007 SPLAT in Greensboro NC and have organized buses, meals, and lodging for youth participating in the event from the New York Conference; as of the date of the preparation of this report we have over 130 youth and adults from the NYAC registered to attend.

103. This year CCYM reestablished the presence of the New York Annual Conference on the Northeastern Jurisdiction Council on Youth Ministry; Natassia Velez represented the New York Conference at the March meeting of the NEJ CYM and is a member of the NEJ Council on Youth Ministry Steering Committee.

104. We are planning on having a conference wide youth retreat for the tentative dates of November 9-11, 2007, at camp Epworth in High Falls, New York entitled Me, Myself, and “I Am”, Discovering Your Spiritual Journey. We request the members of Conference to ask your local church to encourage your youth to attend and to provide them with scholarship money for this event.

105. CCYM has encouraged the districts in the New York Conference to reestablish their District Councils on Youth Ministry and elect youth officers to lead these District meetings. The two districts that have begun to formalize their District Councils on Youth Ministry are the Metropolitan District and the Catskill Hudson District. CCYM is available to help the remaining four districts with this task. Please contact the CCYM officers or your District Superintendent for further information.

106. This year CCYM is also taking an active part in the legislative process of the New York Annual Conference. We have prepared two youth-related resolutions for which we ask your consideration and support.

107. The Conference Council on Youth Ministry endeavors to embody a beloved community of hope and to build up a healthy body of Christ as we work to support the spiritual growth of youth, as well as youth involvement in mission and church leadership. We look forward to your continued encouragement and support of our youth ministry.